BA 163

Gies' Shoe Shop

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

One of the oldest half-dozen houses in Reisterstown, and one of the most picturesque in the state, 143 MAIN STREET was built in at least three periods, the first possibly in the late eighteenth century, the last early in the nineteenth. The earliest part is of log construction, once the most common form of construction, now the rarest to survive; this example is particularly rare because of its two storey height.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
HISTORIC	Gies' Shoe Shop			
AND/OR COMMON		·		· <u></u>
2 LOCATIO	N			
street& NUMBER 143 Main Street		Ce+h		
city. Town Reistersto	wn	_ VICINITY OF Baltimor	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
STATE Maryland		COUNTY		
3 CLASSIFI	CATION			- <u>.</u>
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT X_BUILDING(S)STRUCTURESITEOBJECT	PUBLIC  XPRIVATE BOTH  PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED	—OCCUPIED  —UNOCCUPIED  —WORK IN PROGRESS  ACCESSIBLE  X_YES RESTRICTED  —YES: UNRESTRICTED  —NO	AGRICULTUREMUSEUM X_COMMERCIALPARKEDUCATIONALPRIVATE RENTERTAINMENTRELIGIOUSGOVERNMENTSCIENTIFICINDUSTRIALTRANSPOFMILITARYOTHER	S .
NAME	F PROPERTY  or & Smtih Co. (Tens	ntAttorney's Toffice)	833-1221 Pelephone #: 833-3600	
city.town Reisterstown,		_ VICINITY OF Maryland	STATE, zip code	
5 LOCATIO	N OF LEGAL DESCI	RIPTION	Liber #: 4690 Folîo #: 149	
STREET & NUMBER		041 0410 440 44001	(C) (1200	
CITY. TOWN Towson,			state Maryland 21204	
6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	TING SURVEYS	none	
DATE		FEDERALS	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN		STATE		

CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_EXCELLENT X\_\_GOOD

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

X\_UNALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_ALTERED

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"143 MAIN STREET is a picturesque two storey log and frame structure. facing west, closely oriented to the street, with a shed-roofed frame addition or "lean-to" across its entire east or rear facade, its roof being a continuation of the main roof. The log section (the earliest section, the two southerly bays) measures approximately 16 by 20 feet; the top logs of its east and west walls extend beyond its north wall (which is also of log construction) to become the top wall plates of the frame northerly section, one bay in length, measuring approximately  $12\frac{1}{2}$  by 16 feet. The lean-to is approximately 12 feet deep. The earliest section of this house possibly\* dates from the late eighteenth century. Other sections all date from the early nineteenth. The two rear corners are visible in the attic of the lean-to; the logs at the corners are untrimmed suggesting primitive construction or construction not intended to be seen. The continuous top log (top well plate) of the north addition may be explained in at least two lays: (1) the top low of the original log house was bemoved and replaced with a longer log when the framed north additor was built, an obvious way to tie the addition to the original structure; or (2) the log house was but one storey originally and it was raised to two storeys, continuing with log construction, when the frame north addition was built; and perhaps the lean-to was added at the same time, hence the untrimmed corners in the second storey of the log structure. The rafters of the two portions of the front structure are slightly different; above the log secttic they are of hewn chestnut; the rafters above the frame north addition are of slim logs. All are joined at the ridge with pegged mortise-and-tenon. The difference in rafters is expected in either conjecture, assuming that in conjecture (2) the original rafters were reused on the raised walls. Rafters of the lean-to are also of slim logs, half-lapped over the ends of the second storey ceiling joists. All framing wood in the entire structure appears to be chestnut.

A stuccoed brick chimney rises through the main roof ridge, inside (immediately south of) the original log north wall. Another wide chimney of similar construction, rises through the shed roof of the lean-to, immediately east of the first chimney.

First storey walls are covered with German siding and second storey walls are covered with wood shingles. On the west or street-front facade, the first storey is expressed as four bays, probably a late alteration. A small display window is centered in the southerly section and door is to its south. A 6/6 window with louvered blinds is in the northerly bays, beneath the window above and another door is to its south. Three equally-spaced 6/6 windows mark the three bays in the second storey. A very low door of vertical beaded boards is in the northerly bay of the east or rear facade and a 6/6 window and another door are in the middle and southerly bays respectively. Most exterior finishes, details and trim date from the very late nineteenth century or rearly twentieth century.

In the first storey, a single room is in each section of the front part and the lean-to is divided at the chimney into two rooms. All walls of the log section and the lean-to are finished with modern plywood paneling and fireplaces are covered. The front room of the frame north addition is plainly

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

<b>∠ERIOD</b>	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURELAWLITERATURE	RELIGIONSCIENCESCULPTURE	
1600-1699 X1700-1799 X1800-1899	XARCHITECTUREART XCOMMERCE	EDUCATIONENGINEERING XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	MILITARYMUSICPHILOSOPHY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER	
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_transportation  Lother (specify)  local history	
	<del></del>			1	

#### **SPECIFIC DATES**

#### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"143 MAIN STREET is among the half-dozen oldest structures standing in Reisterstown. Its log construction---once the most common form of construction---is extremely rare: rarer still is its two storey log form. With its rear lean-to and low storey heights, this is themmost picturesque house of Reisterstown's ancient structures. Built in least three basic sections, 143 illustrates perfectly and clearly the growth of a basic structure as needs demanded and as finances allowed; all additions were of traditional materials, respecting and being limited by the nature and size of the original section."

Since this structure can (possibly) be identified on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Records, it is an "extremely rare structure."

#### psule Summary:

"one of the oldest half-dozen houses in Reisterstown, and one of the most picturesque in the state, 143 MAIN STREET was built in at least three periods, the first possibly in the late eighteenth century, the last early in the nineteenth. The earliest part of of log construction, once the most common form of construction, now the rarest to survive; this example is particularly rare because of its two storey height."

#### Detailed History:

143 MAIN STREET, located on the east side of Main Street (U.S. 140--Risterstown Road), is placed almost on the sudden curve in the road and across the street from the present Franklin Junior High School. For over a hundred years the building served as a combination shoe shop and residence.

It is part of what has been "called one of the first planned towns," being the third lot of the original 40-acre Spring Garden tract patented in 1731 by Duncan Coleman and his wife Sarah (Dunkin Coalman in the patent), who received it from Charles Calvert, fifth Lord Baltimore. Coleman held the property for only two years; for the next thirty years the property passed through several hands, usually land speculators, coming in 1767 to the Reverend Banedict Duope (pronounced Gwoop), a Lutheran minister. Swope then proceeded to partition the first five lots on the east side of the Conewago road, each half an acre, which were adjacent to Reister's Desire. To "sweeten" the sale, it is said that deeds were not given until houses were constructed, "Reverend Swope's inducement." (We can only guess when the log portion of the present house was lit--or that there may have been a cruder house built then that later was taken down and the present house a replacement.)

The next owner became Barnet Holtzinger, a blacksmith, who, in late 1771

#### CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources:

STATE

Federal Direct Assessment of 1798, Soldier's Delight Hundred, Particular List of Martin Merryman.

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (continued)

**10** GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11/16 (0.681 acre)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION --from liber 4690, folio 149-50:
"Beginning for the same at a stone on the edge of the Baltimore and Reisterstown Road at the end of the South 83 degrees West 2 perches line mentioned in the deed from Walter Goodwin and wife to the said Joseph Trunda and wife and others dated October 21, 1912 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber WPC No. 403, folio 127 and thence bounding on said Turnpike Road North degrees East 92.2 feet to an iron pin and thence by a line of division now agreed upon by Joseph Trunda and Henry Stehlik North 86 degrees (continued) LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

TI FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE James T. Wollon, A.I.A. and

Mary Beale Wright
ORGANIZATION

DATE

ORGANIZATION

ORGANIZATION

COUNTY

Mary Beale Wright
ORGANIZATION

Historic Reisterstown, Inc.
STREET& NUMBER

214 Greenview Avenue
City OR TOWN

Reisterstown,

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

# 7. Description (continued)

finished with plaster and plain beaded architecture. The tools and furnishings of an early shoemaker remain in situ in the north room. The door between the north room and its lean-to, and the door to the staircase, have six partially raised panels, with plain stiles and and rails.

A straight enclosed stair rises from the lean-to, but within the log section, immediately east of the chimney. The log section is divided tracted from it; the northerly having the stair and the small hall subis at the north end of the lean-to, in its attic, and the remainder of that attic is unfinished. All windows in the log and frame sections are similarly trimmed with architrace with backband, the latter a cymaricon hinges.

Interior walls and ceilings of the second storey are plastered but the ceiling joists were whitewashed, indicating their original exposure. Attic floor boards are secured with cut nails. Occasional wrought nails are observed in the sides of rafters, as hanging hooks."

\*\*This structure unfortunately cannot be identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, very likely since it was valued at less than \$100 at the time and therefore was exempt. Bower, the owner of the building but this one cannot be identified.

3. Significance -- continued.

sought 115 acres plus other acreage, of Spring Garden and then began to sell off pieces of this land. What later became 143 Main Street was bought by Philip Weaver, in August 1770, according to the records more than a year before the date of Holtzinger's deed. (One can conjecture that Holtzinger did not get the final deed until he had paid all of the money for his large purchase.) However, Weaver bought only 3/4 of an acre. It is a bit confused here, because another buyer, Abraham Honsvert, "late of the county of York in the province of Penna but of the city of New York\* bought "One fourth acre and half a quarter acre" adjacent to the Medairy property.8 Whatever happened to this property has to be guessed. Somehow, Daniel Bower must have accumulated it. (Honsvert may have had Tory leanings; if so, then his property may have been confiscated after the Revolution. This idea was advanced by Mrs. Marks in a phone conversation on June 29, 1978. In the records Homsvert mever appears as having sold the property or having conveyed it in any other way; he just disappears.) Weaver, though, bought his 3/4 acre for four pounds "current money," selling it just three years later to Bower for fifty pounds, indicating that very likely there was a building on the land by that time, though not an especially substantial building; with the worth of the pound being at about \$2.56 in 1803, the building would have been not much over a hundred dollars even then, certainly not a tax-worthy building. At the time of the 1798 assessment, Bower must have had the property, with Berryman as occupant, possibly, but the building was not described, evidently not being of sufficient value.

Though these first years of 143 Main Street are unclear, from 1803 on the trail of ownership is very clear. In that year, William Berryman finally bought the property, 10 adding to it contiguous acreage he accumulated through purchases made in later years, one of which appears to be the present 147 Main Street. Then, in 1818, Berryman sold the four-acre property to John Tolley Worthington, who had extensive landholdings in the area, for \$500;11 Worthington held this property for nine years, probably renting it, and then sold one half-acre of what he had bought from Berryman to "William Fresh," as he was named in the deed, 12 though his name was really Frush. Worthington got \$400 for this one-eighth part of Berryman's four acres, a sizable profit, one could say. The next year, 1828, Frush (Fresh) added an adjacent half acre, paying \$200 this time; 13 the house very likely was on the first half acre.

At this point the future 143 Main Street evidently became a financial problem for the next buyer, Nimrod Chapman and his wife, who bought the acre property from Frush in 1835, with Frush holding the mortgage. 14 Chapman apparently could not get a loam in time, and the mortgage was transferred back to Frush on September 21, 1835.15 However, three days later, on September 24, 1835, Chapman managed to redeem the property by obtaining a mortgage from Richard Johns, John Tolley Worthington's son-in-law. 16 and then managed to hold the property somehow for twelve years before again encountering difficulties. This time, in 1847, Frush regained the property, being appointed permanent trustee for Chapman, who was declared "an insolvent debtor."17 The mortgage was passed on to John T. Johns, Richard Johns' son and namesake of his grandfather, John Tolley Worthington. It can be reasonably assumed that Chapman was not ever able to recover financially, not enough at least to reclaim this property, so that Johns, who, like his other male relatives, was a buyer and seller of land, got this apparently decrepit property off his hands by leasing it for \$40.50 annually to John Gies (Sr.), giving a 99-year lease. 1817 Gies opened a shoe shop there, a type of business

### 8. Significance -- continued (2)

that was to be located there until the present owners obtained the property in 1966. Gies was to "thoroughly repair the dwelling house and the buildings on the lot herein called the first lot, expending on the said fences and repairs at least the sum of three hundred dollars all before the expiring ation of the second year" of the lease. It was to be kept in good repair. Gies quite evidently fulfilled his part of the lease, for he continued to hold the lease until he passed it on to his son, John Gies, Jr., in 1870, with the same terms he had had, 20 \$40.50 a year due on April 1. Christian Gies, the third generation of this family to hold the property, then took over the house and lots in late 1875, after his father's death and his mother's removal to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, continuing the shoe shop. 21 Then for over thirty years Christian Gies occupied the house and conducted his business, being active in town affairs, as well as in the affairs of the nearby Lutheran Church.

However, on Christian Gies' death, the property passed to other hands. His son, Lewis Gies, as Trustee, sold the acre property to Walter B. Goodwin, after Circuit Court proceedings against a Catherine E. Grogg, et.al., possibly buyers who had backed out of a sale or maybe temants who had to be removed from the house. (During this period what the house was used for cannot be known with any accuracy.) Goodwin bought the property for \$1600 at private sale, 22 on August 10,1908, and held the property for only a few years. Joseph and Mary Trunda and Henry and Mary Stehlik (possibly a brother of Mrs. Trunda) them bought the property for a quoted \$5.00.23 At this point the property was still an acre in size, two regular half-acre lots, but a year later, in June 1913, the property was divided, with both owners mysteriously getting half of the property, each 11/16th of an acre. The Trumdas got the 11/16 part with the house. In dividing the property, the Trundas and the Stehliks used Frank J. Pintner as the "straw buyer,"24 again for that \$5.00 "and other good and valuable considerations." Pintner them seld" the split property back to the Trundas, 25 and also to the Stehliks. Them, until his death in January 1966, Joseph Trunda occupied 143 Main Street, continuing this location as a shoe shop, a business that was conducted there for more than a hundred years, though possibly not continuously, as mentioned earlier. The property and the house, which had been kept in reasonable repair, was inherited by Trunda's son Alois (Louis) Trunda, 26 siace Mary Trunda had predeceased her husband. The present owners, a law and realty firm, Steuart, Ensor and Smith bought the property later that year 27 and have since had a modern brick office building erected at the rear of the older building, retaining it and its shoe shop for its picturesqueness and its roots in Reisterstown history.

### Footnotes:

James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A. Architect's Report, 2 December 1977.

Ibid

Jillian Bayly Marks. Reister's Desire: The Origin of Reisterstown, Maryland, founded 1758, with a Genealogical History of the Reister Family and Sketches of Allied Families. (Baltimore, Maryland: Garamond/Pridemark Press, Inc., 1975), p. 35.

<sup>4&</sup>lt;u>Ibid</u>., p. 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>AL No. D, Folio 155-60. Hall of Records, Ammapolis, Maryland.

## Footnotes--continued.

7AL No. B, folio 446-9. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

8AL No. C, folio 284-87. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

<sup>9</sup>Federal Direct Assessment of 1798, Soldier's Delight Hundred, Particular list of Martin Merryman. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

10 AL No. 80, folio 339-42. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

11 WG 144, folio 549-50. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

12WG 193, folio 51-52. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

13WG 196, folio 67-68. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

14TK 253, folio 171. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

15TK 253, folio 171-73. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

16TK 253, folio 173-74. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

17 AWB 389, folio 423-24. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

18 HMF 5, folio 343. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland. 19 Ibid.

20 EHA 67, folio 31+. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

21 JB 95, folio 189+. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

22WPC 331, folio 214. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

23WPC 403, folio 127-29. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

24wPC 411, folio 563-64. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

25 WPC 411, folio 565-67. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

26<sub>MTH</sub> 89, folio 375-77. Register of Wills, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

27 org 4690, folio 149+. Land Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

\*\*Not footnoted was the information of Bower's obtaining Weaver's section of the property in 1773. Weaver had bought it for four pounds and sold it for 50 pounds, indicating that very likely a building was erected during that period, with the drastic rise in value of the property. This can be found in Liber AI No. H, folio 521-23, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References:

Register of Wills, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Wollon, James Thomas, A.I.A., Architect's Report. 2 December 1977.

### Secondary Sources:

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1877. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E. (Reprint)

Dickson, Dr. Isaac N. The Early Days of Reisterstown and Vicinity. (Written December 1869). With a Foreword by the Rev. W. Harold Redcay.

Marks, Lillian Bayly. Reister's Desire: The Origin of Reisterstown, founded 1758, with a Genealogical History of the Reister Family and Sketches of Allied Families. Baltimore, Maryland: Garamond/Pridemark Fress, Inc., 1975.

Pollack, Carol, Compiler & Editor. Reister's Desire--Reisterstown 1758-1976:
Two Centuries plus Two Decades minus Two Years. 1976. (No publisher given)

\*Davidson, Isobel. Real Stories of Baltimore County History. Data Obtained by Teachers and Children of Baltimore County (Maryland) Schools. Revisad and Adapted. Hatboro, Penna.: Tradition Press, 1967. (1917 Reprint)

\*Frank, Beryl. "History Hunting: Two story log house a rarity." The Star. March 23, 1978, page B18.

\*Not considered authoritative sources.

### .O. Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description -- continued.

East 20 perches to the outline of the whole tract as conveyed by Walter B. Goodwin and wife to the said Joseph Trumda and others above referred to, thence on said outline South 1½ degrees West 89.3 feet to a stone at the record line of the tract of land conveyed by and described in a Deed from Nehemiah Perryman(sic)and Jefferson D. Fisher dated August 26, 1893 and recorded among the land Records of Baltimore County in Liber L.M.B. No. 198 folio 536 said point being also at the end of the second line of the first tract of land conveyed by and described in a Deed from Ophelia L. Gies, et.al., Administrators to Christian Gies dated December 14, 1875 and recorded among the land Records of Baltimore County in Liber J. P. N. No..95 folio 189 and running thence with the outlines of said tract South 83 degrees West 18 perches to a stone at the side, thence South, 83 degrees West 2 perches to the edge of the Baltimore Reisterstown Turnpike Road the place of the beginning. Containing in all 11/16 of an acre."

Form 10 +45 (5/62)

1. STATE Maryland county Baltimore town Reisterstown vicinityDist. IV STREET NO. #143 Main Street

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY BA-15

2. NAME Shop Shop

(#143 Main Street)

DATE OR PERIOD

ARCHITECT BUILDER

-MAST#-030163421

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

A small frame building located on property originally owned by Jacob Mediary, near the former site of the Old Yellow Tavern. Occupied for many years by Mr. Joseph Trunda; now the law office of J. Temple Smith.

(second HABS report)
E. Frances Offutt
HABS CONMITTEE OF BALTIMORE
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
March 20, 1968

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interio

Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD



8A 163 Shoe Shop

143 Main St - Rusterstown

Carol Pollack

4-77 West.